**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, ~~said~~ a method comprising ~~the~~ steps of;

a) ~~providing said component with a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations which share a common component interface and semantics;~~

b) instrumenting ~~said~~ the component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of ~~said~~ the program;

c) ~~providing said~~ the ~~component with a cost estimator for~~ using ~~said~~ the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of ~~said~~ a plurality of explicitly selectable implementations in running ~~said~~ the program;

d) based on the costs estimated, ~~in step (c),~~ selecting, at runtime, one of ~~said~~ the plurality of explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of ~~said~~ the program.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a default implementation is used during ~~said~~ the at least partial run.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the selecting step (d) is carried out by an other component operable as a controller.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the selecting step ~~(d)~~ is carried out by an application program.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): A computer readable medium including computer instructions for carrying out a method of minimizing the cost of using a component of a computer program, ~~said~~ the method comprising the steps of[[;]]:

a) ~~providing said component with a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations which share a common component interface and semantics;~~

b) instrumenting ~~said~~ the component to gather cost-related information during at least a partial run of said program;

c) ~~providing said component with a cost estimator for~~ using ~~said~~ the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of ~~said~~ a plurality of explicitly selectable implementations in running ~~said~~ the program;

d) based on the costs estimated ~~in step (c)~~, selecting, at runtime, one of ~~said~~ the explicitly selectable implementations for a subsequent at least partial run of ~~said~~ the program.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein a default implementation is used during ~~said~~ the at least partial run.

Claim 7 (original): ~~A~~ The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein the selecting step ~~(d)~~ is carried out by an other component operable as a controller.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The computer readable medium as set forth in claim 5, wherein the selecting step ~~(d)~~ is carried out by an application program.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A computer program comprising a plurality of components which interact during running thereof, at least one of ~~said~~ the components comprising:

a) a plurality of explicit selectable alternative implementations;

b) a common interface and semantics for receiving messages from ~~an other~~ another one of ~~said~~ the components and sending messages thereto;

c) an instrumentation for gathering cost-related information during at least a partial run of ~~said~~ the computer program;

d) a cost estimator for using ~~said~~ the cost-related information to estimate a cost for using each of ~~said~~ the explicit selectable alternative implementations; and

e) a selector for choosing, at runtime, one of ~~said~~ the alternative implementations in response to a message received at ~~said~~ the interface from one of an application program and ~~an other~~ another one of ~~said~~ the components.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The computer program as set forth in claim 9, wherein one of ~~said~~ the alternative implementations comprises a default implementation which is operational before operation of ~~said~~ the selector.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~A~~ The computer program as set forth in claim 9, ~~said~~ the selector being operable to choose an alternative implementation based upon a cost measurement by ~~said~~ the instrumentation.

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